



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/562,832	02/23/2006	Abdoel Fazel Rajabali	2001-1427	8381

466 7590 02/23/2010  
YOUNG & THOMPSON  
209 Madison Street  
Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314

EXAMINER
----------

WATKINS III, WILLIAM P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1794

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

02/23/2010

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

DocketingDept@young-thompson.com



### DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 18, 20-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westre et al. (U.S. 6,114,050) in view of Behr et al. (U.S. 6,428,905 B1).

Westre et al. teaches a multiple metal layer laminate with adhesive inner layers between the metal layers (abstract). The reference teaches reduction in the number of inner metal layers with a resulting decrease in the laminate thickness for areas that do not need to be reinforced with the central metal layers (Figure 5, col. 13, lines 5-25). Behr et al. teaches that it is known to reinforce outer metal layers by the use of a perforated central metal layer with a reduction in thickness of the total laminate at the openings in the central metal layer (col. 1, lines 15-30). The instant invention claims outer metal layers and a central inner metal layer with openings and reduced thickness of the laminate at the openings. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form the central metal layers of Westre et al. with openings in the areas that do not need reinforcement in view of the teachings of Behr et al. Variation in the pattern of the openings and the number of inner metal layers would depend on the specific

laminate reinforcement needed for a given application and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 18, 20-34 have been considered but have not been found to be persuasive.

Applicant argues that neither reference teaches a central layer with a closed hole. The examiner relies upon the description of the prior art in Behr et al. at col. 1, lines 15-30, which explicitly teaches a perforated aluminum sheet where the outer sheets contact the central sheet at the holes. Unless all of the holes are located on the edge of the perimeter of the sheet, the vast majority of the holes will all have closed perimeters. Applicant also argues that Behr et al. is to a light weight sheet while Westre et al. is to a heavy sheet. Both references are drawn to sheet panels for transportation vehicles where weight and strength are a concern. It would thus be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to look to either reference for solutions to common problems.

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Watkins III whose telephone number is 571-272-1503. The examiner works an increased flex time schedule, but can normally be reached Monday through Friday, 11:30 A.M. through 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time. The examiner returns all calls within one business day unless an extended absence is noted on his voice mail greeting.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on 571-272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WW/ww  
February 21, 2010

/William P. Watkins III/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794